

Message Text

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70

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 IO-10 SS-15 NSC-05 SAJ-01 ACDA-10

/079 W

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R 091233ZJUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5052
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

UNCLAS CAIRO 6762

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR EG XF

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN PRESS REFUTES BBC STORY OF INTERIM
SINAI AGREEMENT

1. AHRAH JULY 9 HEADLINES, OTHER DAILIES PROMINENTLY DISPLAY,
STATEMENT BY DEP PM/FONMIN FAHMY REFUTING BBC STORY FROM JERUSALEM
BROADCAST PREVIOUS DAY THAT A FORMULA FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM
SINAI PASSES HAD BEEN ACHIEVED AND THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER WOULD BE
VISITING MIDDLE EAST IN LATE JULY TO MAKE LAST-MINUTE CLARIFICATIONS
AND TO ATTEND THE SIGNING OF NEW INTERIM AGREEMENT.

2. THE FAHMY STATEMENT ASSERTED THAT GOE HAD HEARD OF NO NEW
PROPOSALS FROM US, COUNTRY WITH WHICH EGYPT DEALS IN SUCH
MATTERS, AND THAT EGYPTIAN POSITION HAS NOT CHANGED WITH
REGARD TO SINAI SINCE DISCUSSIONS HELD IN ASWAN MARCH 1975.
STATEMENT CONTINUED THAT JERUSALEM STORY WAS TYPICAL EXAMPLE OF
HYSTERICAL MANNER IN WHICH ISRAEL ATTEMPTED TO DISTORT THE FACTS
WHEN CONFRONTED BY AN UNCOMFORTABLE SITUATION.

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3. AHRAM, WHICH ALSO CARRIED DENIALS OF THE BBC STORY BY AN ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN AND ISRAELI PM RABIN, IMPLIED THAT CRUX OF CONTINUED DISAGREEMENT WAS WHETHER ISRAELI FORCES WOULD WITHDRAW 5 KOLOMETERS FROM SUMMIT OF PASSES, AS ISRAELIS WANTED, OR 5 KILOMETERS FROM THE "END" OF PASSES.

4. COMMENT: AHRAM ARTICLE APPEARED ON THE WHOLE OPTIMISTIC. THE ISRAELI FOREGIN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN WAS QUOTED AS STATING THAT PROGRESS HAD BEEN MAKE, BUT AS YET NO AGREEMENT REACHED. PM RABIN WAS QUOTED MERELY AS STATING THAT ANNOUNCEMENT OF A NEW INTERIM AGREEMENT WAS "PREMATURE".
EILTS

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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